



Simon Leparmarai, a beneficiary of Ujuzi Manyattani, NRT Trading's vocational training program that is supported by USAID, repairs a motorcycle outside his garage in Naisunyai centre, Westgate Community Conservancy. Photo: Paul Wambugu/NRT

KENYA

UWEZO KASKAZINI KENYA

Rates of unemployment are high in northern Kenya. One way to improve employment opportunities is through a mix of more productive livestock rearing and income generating businesses to make households more resilient. The goal of the program is to economically empower the communities of northern Kenya to drive their own sustainable development. To achieve this, the program will support investments that lead to locally owned, locally led, and locally managed development initiatives within community conservancies.

Uwezo Kaskasini Kenya (building capacity in northern Kenya) is a three-year Local Works project being implemented by Northern Rangelands Trust Trading (NRTT). The program works with women, youth, and conservancies to identify business opportunities and seek collaboration and partnership with the public and private sector. Pastoralism is the main livelihood activity but is under optimized due to a myriad of contributing factors, including climate change, degraded rangelands, inadequate training, and poor adoption of technology. Northern Kenya also has tourism potential that could provide youth and women employment and entrepreneurial opportunities.

OUR WORK

The Uwezo Kaskasini Kenya activity will focus on four key areas of engagement with community conservancies in eight counties in Kenya:

1. **Gender sensitive local engagement and empowerment:** NRTT will work with women, youth, and conservancies to identify business priorities and seek private sector and governmental partners who can assist and invest in solutions that lead to development.
2. **Capacity building:** Strengthen engagements between the conservancies, county governments, women's groups, and private sector players in the landscape.
3. **Sustainability:** The project will be a catalyst for market-based development by strengthening local institutions, developing economic skills and assets, and creating market-supply linkages.
4. **Private Sector Engagement:** NRTT will consult, strategize, and collaborate to implement profitable partnerships with the local private sector.

KEY RESULT AREAS

Throughout the course of the program, we hope to have successes in the following areas:

1. **Increased and diversified household income:** The program will conduct consultations at the community level to identify business opportunities for the most vulnerable women and youth. This will be followed with financial literacy, entrepreneurship training, and appropriate vocational training courses.
2. **Strengthened livestock value chain for improved income:** The program will identify and mobilize appropriate cohorts of cattle keepers in the conservancies. They will be taught a livestock husbandry and rangelands awareness curriculum in a field school format. This approach will enable NRTT to fit the training into the nomadic lifestyle and intercept pastoralists when they are ready to engage. The intent of the schools are continual engagement and frequent interaction with the youth.
3. **Increased environmentally friendly, culturally sensitive, and community-owned tourism business:** The program intends to market northern Kenya as an exciting destination. Concurrently, community leaders and youth will be trained in tourism operations and management.

BUDGET: USD \$2 million

DURATION: 2021-2024

ACTIVITY LOCATIONS

Community Conservancies in Lamu, Garissa, Isiolo, Marsabit, Samburu, Laikipia, Baringo and West Pokot.

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER

Northern Rangelands Trust Trading, Limited

KEY PARTNERS

County Governments of Lamu, Garissa, Isiolo, Marsabit, Samburu, Laikipia, Baringo and West Pokot. National Industrial Training Authority

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